

PATENT
674502-2000.2IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutically acceptable protein composition, free from total cell-components, the protein being characterized as comprising an isolated protein having a molecular weight of about 13 kDa, as determined by sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS/PAGE), that binds to the monoclonal antibody 15G6 and being isolatable from *B. burgdorferi*.

2. (Currently amended) The protein composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further consists essentially of comprises *B. burgdorferi* outer membrane proteins OspA, OspB, OspC or OspD in combination with a pharmacologically acceptable diluent or carrier.

3. Cancel

4. (Currently amended) The composition purified protein of claim 1 3, wherein the isolated protein is obtained further defined as being isolated from *Borrelia burgdorferi* cells.

5. (Currently amended) The composition purified protein of claim 1 3, wherein the isolated protein is further defined as being a recombinant protein obtained from a recombinant host cell that includes a nucleic acid segment that expresses said protein.

6-30. Cancel.